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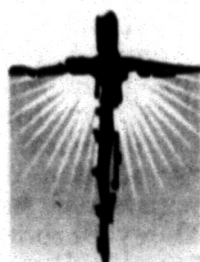
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MISSISSIPPI
BAPTISTS

Lads, Crusaders have day in the sun

By William H. Perkins Jr.
Editor

A total of 390 Royal Ambassadors (RA) and their leaders from across the Mississippi Baptist Convention raced model cars and took in the outdoor life April 12 at Lad/Crusader Day at Central Hills Baptist Retreat near Kosciusko.

Excellent weather likely helped attendance rise for the annual event, which is sponsored by the Men's Ministry Department of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board (MBCB) and held at Mississippi Baptists' RA encampment.

"We're seeing an increasing interest in the RA program in our churches statewide," said Don Gann, director of Lad/Crusader Day and a consultant in the MBCB Men's Ministry Department.

One of the highlights of the day was the model racing competition in the gym of the Central Hills multi-purpose building. Hundreds of boys in Grades 1-6 brought their brightly-colored speeders, each one unique to its designer. After several hours of racing supervised by Lewis Harrell of First Church, Amory, the winners were declared:

- Lad First Place: John Lee of Bethany Church, Prentiss.
- Lad Second Place: Canaan May of First Church, Summit.
- Lad Third Place: Justin Hill of Poplar Creek Nations Church, Kilmichael.
- Crusader First Place: Ben Hill of Poplar Creek Nations Church, Kilmichael.
- Crusader Second Place: David Ochoa of Williamsville Church, Williamsville.
- Crusader Third Place: Tre Russell, Williamsville Church, Williamsville.

Lad first place finisher John Lee also took the overall prize with his finely-crafted blue coupe racer. The winners are eligible to participate in the national racing



ON MARK, GET READY... — Lewis Harrell of First Church, Amory, drops the gate as model racing gets underway at Lad/Crusader Day April 12 at Central Hills Retreat near Kosciusko. Behind Harrell is the next group of Royal Ambassadors awaiting their racers' turns on the special track. (Photo by William H. Perkins Jr.)

competition to be held this summer at the annual meeting of the Southern Baptist Convention in Indianapolis.

Other activities for the day included the rifle range, the new miniature golf course, an arrowhead hunt, a compass course, and field events.

First Church, Kosciusko, was named Best RA Chapter, with North Columbia Church, Columbia, taking second place and Bethany Church, Prentiss, taking third place.

Frank Montague, who heads up the RA program at First Church, Kosciusko, said parents have been crucial to building the church's top quality RA program. "We have encouraged parent participation, and they have responded," he said. "We have seen parent participation increase year by year."

Montague, who has worked with RAs since 1972, also credits Pastor Barry Corbett and the Men's Ministry at First Church for helping build the program. "They have never failed to support the RA budget, whatever I've asked," he said. "It's great to be in a church with the resources, and the willingness to use those resources, to support the RA program."

"It's a reflection of what is important to the members of this church."

Montague said the seeds of the successful missions education thrust at the church were planted in part by Chris Webb,

a former student minister who presently serves as married adult pastor at First Church, Jackson. "Chris had a wonderful impact that has carried over to this day," he said.

One of the results of the church's focus on missions education has been the three young adult members who have recently surrendered to God's call to be missionaries. "These are people the RAs know," Montague said. "That makes the importance of missions really hit home for our young people."

Still, it's taken a lot of hard work to ensure that First Church's RA program has been able to flourish, said Montague, a rural mail carrier. "I believe the key is finding the right man in the church with a passion for missions and a heart for these young men," he said. "If you've got someone who is about missions and excited to be with the boys every week, you will have a good chapter."

Montague said he has been able to recruit several adult men in the church to assist him, and the church has also taken advantage of training offered by Gann, the consultant in the MBCB Men's Ministry Department.

"We want to continue to grow," Montague said. "We're not where we want to be, but we're going to get there and the boys will learn about missions along the way. That's the important thing."

For more information on the Royal Ambassadors program in Mississippi, contact Gann at P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205-0530. Telephone: (601) 292-3339 or toll-free outside Jackson (800) 748-1651, ext. 339. E-mail: dgann@mbcb.org.



ON TARGET — Royal Ambassadors (RA) participating in Lad/Crusader Day April 12 at Central Hills Retreat near Kosciusko spend time honing their marksmanship at the retreat's rifle range. Shooting the .22 caliber rifles under the individual supervision of adult leaders was just one of the activities specially geared for RA-age boys during the annual event. (Photo by William H. Perkins Jr.)



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The churches of the Mississippi Baptist Convention have designated the Christian Action Commission (CAC) with, among other duties, the task of informing them on the actions of the Mississippi Legislature while that body is in session. It is toward that duty that I offer the following report on the 2008 regular session of the Mississippi Legislature, which ended April 18.

The session opened on January 8 with a close contest in the House of Representatives to determine who would be Speaker of the House for the next four years. The winner, as determined by a vote among House members, was the incumbent Speaker, Rep. Billy McCoy of Rienzi. The Senate began a new term under the leadership of the newly-elected Lt. Governor Phil Bryant, who was elected last fall during the state's general elections.

Both of these men had their plates full throughout the session.

Several bills surfaced that demanded the attention of the Christian Action Commission. House Bill (HB) 815 and Senate Bill (SB) 2501 related to alcohol sales in a dry county. HB 815 would have given Flowood in Rankin County an opportunity to vote to sell alcoholic beverages in hotels and restaurants, even though the people of Rankin County voted in October 2004 to remain dry. Speaker McCoy and Rep. Percy Watson of Hattiesburg, chairman of the House Ways and Means Committee, stood with the people of Rankin County and allowed this bill to die in committee.

SB 2501 would have permitted referenda to allow businesses along Lakeland Drive in Flowood, as well as Trustmark Park and Bass Pro Shop in Pearl, to sell alcohol under the state's "resort status" laws. Those three areas may serve many useful purposes, but most people would not recognize them as "resorts." Again, the House leadership sided with the people of Rankin County as expressed in their previous referenda, and refused to bring this up for a vote.

As far as we could tell only one representative from Rankin County, Mark Baker, worked to pass this legislation, while the rest of the Rankin County delegation worked to defeat it.

As with every legislative session, there were bills related to casinos and gambling. Sen. Lee Yancey of Rankin County introduced SB 2199, which was designed to restrict gambling to the counties where it already exists. This was a good bill when it was passed by the Senate but it was amended in the House by the Gaming Committee,

GUEST OPINION:



A report to Mississippi Baptists

By Jimmy Porter, Exec. Director
Miss. Baptist Christian Action Comm.

chaired by Rep. Bobby Moak of Lincoln County. The Senate would not go along with the House's changes, which had effectively gutted the bill. The bill then went to a conference committee, where three members from the House and three members from the Senate tried to find a compromise.

In the opinion of the CAC, the bill was further watered down by the conference committee until it accomplished no more than the current law. News media widely reported that a deal was in the making — if SB 2199 was passed by the House without amendments, then HB 1196 would be brought up for a vote in the Senate.

HB 1196 was a tax rebate bill designed strictly for casinos. According to the bill, if gambling companies spent a minimum of ten million dollars on a non-gambling project such as a golf course or amusement park, they could possibly get up to 30% of their investment back over a period of ten years in tax rebates. The CAC opposed this tax giveaway to the gambling interests.

Since the watered-down version of SB 2199 was offered as a trade for HB 1196, some senators felt this was a bad deal and voted not to pass SB 2199 — and rightfully so. SB 2199 was then recommitted to conference where it died, and HB 1196 then died on the Senate calendar.

Many reasons were given for supporting HB 1196. One senator said he supported the bill because it created "parity." Where taxes are concerned, the casinos already operate on an unlevel playing field that is heavily tilted in their favor. Rep. Diane Peranich of Harrison County stated in the Sun Herald newspaper, "The infusion of capital is needed to jumpstart the economy in this state." She had reference to approximately 800 million dollars rumored to be invested if the bill passed.

I don't think Mississippi's economy is totally dependent on what happens in the casinos on the coast or the river, but apparently some legislators do. Let's give credit to Lt. Gov. Phil Bryant for not bringing

the bill to the floor of Senate for a vote. Once it became clear that the bill was specifically designed for the massive Margaritaville Casino and Resort project now under construction on the Gulf Coast and was not a "tourism bill," it fell into disfavor with the Senate leadership.

For two years, the CAC and like-minded senators and representatives have worked to keep the state from giving away millions of dollars in tax rebates to the gambling cartel. If this bill had passed, everyone in retail sales on the Mississippi Gulf Coast would have been hurt by this legislation.

HB 1196 was voted on in the House and it passed. Below are the names of the representatives who DID NOT vote to give legal gambling businesses additional and unnecessary tax breaks. They had the wisdom to see through the smoke and mirrors and do the right thing. Carefully read from the list below and see if your representative is listed. If so, call and say thanks for voting against this appalling bill. If your representative's name is NOT on this list, you might want to call and ask why they voted to give casinos tax rebates. Thanks to the following representatives who DID NOT vote for HB 1196:

Noal Akins
Brian Aldridge
Larry Baker
Jim Beckett
Donnie Bell
Scott Bounds
Larry Byrd
Tad Campbell
Lester Carpenter
Gary Chism
Becky Currie
Bill Denny
Mark DuVall
Bo Eaton
Bob Evans
Harvey Fillingane
Mark Formby
Herb Frierson
Jack Gadd
Andy Gipson
Philip Gunn
Eugene Hamilton
Steve Horne
Bobby Howell
Mac Huddleston
Wanda Jennings
Sherra Lane
John Moore

Ken Morgan
Harvey Moss
Warner McBride
Billy Nicholson
Russ Nowell
Deryk Parker
Bill Pigott
Jimmy Puckett
Dannie Reed
Thomas Reynolds
Margaret Rogers
Ray Rogers
Bobby Shows
Jeff Smith
Mary Ann Stevens
Preston Sullivan
Jerry Turner
Shaun Walley
Greg Ward
Tom Weathersby

The CAC also supported and worked to pass HB 520, which would have helped deter rape and incest and cut down on underage girls giving birth to children and/or having abortions. This bill unfortunately got caught up in procedure and politics in the House and died even though it had enough support to easily pass.

A committee has been appointed to study it between now and 2009, and I believe we will come away with a good bill to help the children of our state. We will keep you informed.

As you well know, the Medicaid program and the Mississippi Unemployment Security Commission were not properly funded during the 2008 legislative session. Governor Haley Barbour has indicated he will call a special session to deal with these two items and any other items he chooses to put on the agenda.

Do not be surprised if the casino-friendly "tourism bill" (the tax rebate to the gambling industry) shows up on the agenda for the special session. Some of the language will be softened and it will again be touted as a bill to enhance tourism, but it is without argument a monetary windfall for the casinos.

Continue praying for our elected officials. Let them hear from you, not only when you disagree with them but also when they do what you believe to be the right thing. Encourage them and talk with them year-round, because they want to know your opinions.

If you need further information on the 2008 regular session of the Mississippi Legislature or have questions about the operations of the Mississippi Baptist Christian Action Commission, contact us at P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205-0530. Telephone: (601) 292-3329 or toll-free outside Jackson (800) 748-1651, ext. 329. E-mail: jporter@christianaction.com.



Third 'Forged by Faith' DVD now available

NASHVILLE, Tn. (BP) — Defining the identity of Southern Baptists isn't an easy task, but the latest film in the Forged by Faith DVD series seeks to do just that. Forged by Faith: A Character of Commitment, tells the story of Southern Baptists around the world and provides six examples of what makes them who they are.

At just over 17 minutes, the DVD is the third film in a series to help Southern Baptists better understand and appreciate their heritage and beliefs. Designed particularly for use in small groups, Sunday School classes, new member orientation, and special programs, the DVDs are produced by the Southern Baptist Convention Executive Committee. Segments of each DVD also can be used for sermon illustrations and in worship services.

The first DVD in the series, Forged by Faith: The Early Years, told the story of Southern Baptists' early history, while the second DVD, Forged by Faith: One Sacred Effort, focused on the Cooperative Program. Other titles are in the works, including a forthcoming one looking at the Baptist Faith and Message.

"The film series is an updated way to supply information Southern Baptists once regularly received through the Training Union curriculum," said Morris H. Chapman, president and CEO of the Executive Committee. "When the idea surfaced in one of our executive leadership team meetings, I immediately approved the development of a prototype and eagerly looked forward to its production."

"When that first film was finished, we telecast it during an annual meeting in the convention hotel. The response was overwhelmingly positive, and a series was born."

D. August Boto, who has written and produced much of the series, said he hopes the resource will continue to gain recognition



as a useful training tool. "I have heard of some churches which have incorporated the films into their new member training," said Boto, executive vice president of the Executive Committee.

One pastor using the films is David Hill, pastor of Northside Church in Springfield, Ohio, and this year's chairman of the convention's Committee on Nominations. The DVDs are "extremely well done," Hill said. "In fact, I showed them to my Wednesday night Bible study adult group, and they were so thrilled that they want me to do a sermon series on them. They want everyone to see them."

"We're going to use them for the whole church somehow," Hill said. "Since we no longer do discipleship training here, we've really lost a lot in teaching our history and the way the convention works....I had people [who watched the DVD] saying, 'We didn't know this. We've never heard this.'"

The narration of the latest DVD, A Character of Commitment, acknowledges that defining the Southern Baptist identity "is a challenge of significant proportion" due to "their

broad range of diversity." It notes there are six key characteristics that give Southern Baptists their identity. Southern Baptists are:

- Christians whose first loyalty is to Jesus. "They do not believe that being Southern Baptist makes one a Christian," the narrator says. "They believe the only way to be a Christian is through an individual relationship with Jesus. They do not claim to be the only Christians or the only true Christian denomination or group."

- Southern Baptists identify with and pray for their brothers and sisters in Christ who work to advance the cause of Christ under another denominational or descriptive banner or as independent fellowships."

- a people of the Book. "They view God's Word as indispensable. This stems from their belief that sound doctrine can only come from the Bible, which they also believe to be entirely reliable and authoritative."

They credit their growth in ranks and ministry — at a time when other Christian groups have suffered decline — to their staunch adherence to this high view of Scripture which they hold openly and unashamedly and often in spite of contrary popular opinion."

The narrator references the

Baptist Faith and Message's article on the Bible and says it is based on the Apostle Paul's definition of Scripture in 2 Timothy 3:16. "A strong characteristic displayed by most Southern Baptists is their individual and collective conviction that the value of any religious belief rises or falls in direct proportion to its biblical underpinning."

- evangelical. "Basically this means that they believe they have good news to share — that good news being the Gospel message of the New Testament. They see the Great Commission, found in Matthew 28:19-20, as an assignment to all Christians..."

Southern Baptists are enthusiastically mission-minded in their beliefs and practices, supporting an extremely large missionary personnel force both domestically and overseas. Southern Baptists are known for sharing the Gospel as a part of every ministry they offer or perform."

- cooperative, resilient, and adaptive. "They're not uncomfortable with diversity and welcome open and heartfelt debate about matters affecting church practice and doctrine. They recognize the Holy Spirit at work through the wide variety of giftedness possessed by their members and often distribute ministry assignments accordingly."

'Expelled' now showing

NASHVILLE, Tn. (BP) — Following weeks of controversy about not only its content but its filming and production, Ben Stein's documentary, Expelled: No Intelligence Allowed, is now showing. The 90-minute movie (PG, thematic elements, very brief language) explores the ongoing academic, legal, and cultural battle between supporters of Darwinian evolution and Intelligent Design, which is the belief that certain aspects of the world are so complex that they are best explained as having been created by an intelligent being instead of by a random process. Stein talks to people on both sides of the debate, and in a climactic scene, interviews noted atheist and evolutionist Richard Dawkins. Pro-family leaders, including Focus on the Family's James Dobson and the Southern Baptist Ethics & Religious Liberty Commission's Richard Land, have given the film thumbs up. "Expelled is a wonderful movie," Land said on the April 17 broadcast of For Faith and Family in which he interviewed Stein. "I think it should be required viewing for anyone who wants to understand what is going on and what is at stake in the debate over worldviews in this society." For more information about Expelled, visit www.GetExpelled.com.

Looking back

10 years ago

Graham Smith, director of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board's Church Music department, is selected to lead the congregational singing during the Southern Baptist Convention's annual meeting in Salt Lake City, Utah.

20 years ago

"I'm glad you're celebrating tonight. A church or association that does not appreciate its past has no future," Southern Baptist leader and retired Oklahoma pastor Herchel Hobbs tells Winston County Baptists gathered at First Church, Louisville, to celebrate the association's 150th anniversary.

50 years ago

The annual Baptist Student Union Retreat for Negroes is scheduled for Natchez College, Natchez, May 9 - 10, with approximately 75 local BSU officers from about eight colleges in the state expected to attend.



MISSISSIPPI
BAPTISTS

THE SECOND
FRONT PAGE

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NO. 40



YOU CAN RESPOND RIGHT NOW!

Simply share the following prayer with God in your own words:

1. Lord, I admit that I need you. (I have sinned.)
2. I want forgiveness for my sins and freedom from eternal death. (I repent.)
3. I believe Jesus died and rose from the grave to forgive my sins and to restore my relationship with you. (I believe in Jesus.)
4. By faith, I invite Jesus Christ into my life. From this time on, I want to live in a loving relationship with Him. (I receive Christ as my Savior and Lord.)

"But as many as received him, to them he gave the right to become children of God, even to those who believe in his name." (John 1:12)

If you make a decision for Jesus Christ today, contact a local Baptist church for spiritual guidance.

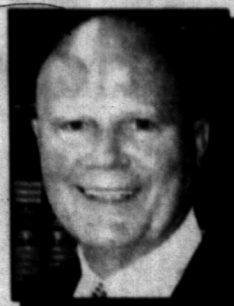
FORGETFUL

A friend of mine who shall remain nameless was telling me about his wife, who will certainly remain nameless, and an experience she had recently. She was telling her husband, "I think I am losing my mind!" He laughed and said, "No, you are not! Why would you say that?" She said, "Well, I hate to even tell you." He responded, "Tell me what?" She said, "I stopped by KFC to get me a bite to eat for lunch and take it home. I pulled up to the drive thru, placed my order, pulled up to the window, paid for the food, got the food, set it down in the seat beside me, proceeded to put my change up, and then I just sat there. In a little while, the lady at the window asked me if she could help me with something else. I told her I was waiting on my chicken." The sweet lady at the window said, "I believe that is it sitting beside you on the seat." She looked down and sure enough, there it was in the same place she had put it about a minute before. Then as you can imagine she sped away in embarrassment.

While this is a true story I can imagine that there may be a dozen ladies reading this and wondering who told me about that and possibly two dozen men who are thinking I'm just changing the story up so it will not look like I was writing this article about him. You see the fact is that my friend's wife is not losing her mind, for many of us may at times have had similar moments of mental lapses or brain malfunctions that make us wonder or possibly make others wonder if we are losing it.

Part of the problem is the world in which we live. It is a world of unending, uninterrupted information, ideas, and instructions. It is a wide-open fire hose of communication, commercials, and sometimes chaos telling us to pay attention. It is impossible to pay attention to all of the attention-getting efforts that are out there. Let me give you a couple of examples.

One, of course, is the converging media that comes at us in every form and from every direction. It is incredible to think about how much technology we have at our fingertips and its attempt to invade our lives every moment. When I get in my car to go somewhere, there is no peace and quiet. The media mechanism that is there is an AM/FM radio, a tape player, a CD player, and a satellite radio connection with 180 plus stations. Of course, I have my cell phone just in case somebody wants to call me or I need to call someone. How can you deal with all of that noise and clamor? You



Directions

Jim Futral, executive director-treasurer
Mississippi Baptist Convention Board

cannot and the fact is that the technology that I described in my vehicle is not as advanced as many of you have in your transportation. There are new bells and whistles out there that will help the flow of ideas come to you.

There is at some point such a glut of channels through which ideas may flow and voices be translated that we just experience absolute, overwhelming information overload. You cannot pay attention to all of it. It is not just radio, TV, CDs, DVDs, text messaging, telephones, email, etc., and etc. Just driving down the road you cannot pay attention to all of the signs and instructions telling you what to do as you drive. It just hit me the other day as I was driving down the highway what all of the signs were trying to tell me. Within about 10 yards in that strip of highway there were 10 signs informing me of 10 different things happening. You would have to stop on the side of the road in order to read all of them, digest what they are telling you to do, and react while you are driving.

If someone has an accident I am sure that some law enforcement officer will probably ask, "Did you not see that sign?"

Can you not read?" Reading ability is not the problem. Even if all of our abilities are up to speed and all of our intellectual and emotional sensors are on edge we cannot ingest and digest everything that is coming at us fast enough. While it may seem as though we have everything in place and advanced technology and wireless connections so that communication can be at its maximum, but there is a missing piece that happens to be a spiritual part, a biblical word that would help us keep our fast-paced crazy world from coming unraveled.

The Scripture says, "Be still, and know that I am God" (Ps. 46:10a). There must be disciplined, self-imposed times of pause — times to reflect, times to be still, times when you are not pressed and pushed, and times when you are not receiving or dispensing information. There must be times just to be still. Beyond that, it is vitally important to be still and know that He is God. It is so important that we keep in focus that part of the verse

because it is only there that you can find your life ordered with right priorities. It is time managed under the caring guidance of God.

How in the world will you do that? Where do you begin? Where would God tell you to start? It is a clear truth, though it is often forgotten, that God Himself in the creation experience said, "One day in seven is a different day. It is a holy day. It is a God day. It is a day when your life is not just packed with more extracurricular activities, but it is a day when you can rest in the Lord. You can refocus on His vision for your life and God can restore and re-establish the plans and purposes that He has for you, your family, and your work. Far too many of us pack Sunday with so many things including church activities, family responsibilities, sporting events, home and yard projects, and the essential shopping trips that by the time we get to Monday morning we are in worse shape than we were before Sunday began.

Nobody can make those time management decisions for you except you. The Lord will help you and guide you. Just speaking from a personal standpoint, I find that I am not nearly so forgetful when I remember Him.

The author may be contacted at P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205-0530. E-mail: jfutral@mbcb.org.

MS POSITIONS

CENTRAL BAPTIST CHURCH, Brookhaven, Miss., is currently accepting resumes for a full-time minister of music/outreach. Please send resumes to 749 North Jackson Street, Brookhaven, MS 39601 or email to questions@cbcbrookhaven.org.

BRANDON BAPTIST CHURCH, Brandon, Miss., a traditional southern Baptist church, is currently accepting resumes from qualified applicants for the position of senior pastor. Please send resumes to pastor selection committee, P.O. Box 1662, Brandon, MS 39043-1662.

WANTED: PINEVIEW BAPTIST CHURCH, Clinton, MS is seeking individual for part-time interim minister of music or part-time minister of music for blended Worship service. Please send resume to Pineview Baptist Church, 1288 Clinton-Raymond Road, Clinton, MS 39056 or email to Pineviewbc@bellsouth.net. Or fax your resume to 601-924-8378.

CALVARY BAPTIST CHURCH, Cleveland, Miss., is accepting resumes for an interim/part-time youth minister. All resumes should be sent to Calvary Baptist Church, attn: chairman youth minister search committee, P.O. Box 516, Cleveland, MS 38732.

SEEKING PART-TIME MINISTER OF music: Gillburg Baptist Church, Gillburg, Miss., searching for a minister of music. Mail resumes for this position or the interim position to Chris Teasley at 6126 MS Hwy 568, Osyka, MS, 39657 or call 601 542-1230.

SHADY GROVE BAPTIST CHURCH IN Bogue Chitto, Miss., is seeking a permanent bivocational minister of music. Interested persons should send resumes to 4056 Shady Grove Dr. SE, Bogue Chitto, MS 39629 or email resumes to rev_johnp@hotmail.com.

TRACE RIDGE BAPTIST CHURCH, Ridgeland, Miss., is currently accepting resumes for a bi-Vocational minister of music. Please send resumes to TRBC, P.O. Box 2726, Ridgeland, MS 39158 or email to secretary@tracridge.org.

VAIDEN BAPTIST CHURCH VAIDEN, Miss., is seeking a full-time associate pastor/youth minister. We are a thriving church seeking God's man to minister to students and families. If you are interested or know a great prospect please contact us at 662-464-5275, fcmat41589@aol.com, 501 Mulberry Street Vaiden, MS. 39176.

OAK HILL BAPTIST CHURCH, Meridian, Miss., is searching for a full-time minister of music and Youth. Send resumes to OHBC, P.O. Box 3938, Meridian, MS 39303.

COUNTY LINE BAPTIST CHURCH, Crystal Springs, Miss., is accepting resumes for the position of a full-time pastor. Please send resume to County Line Baptist Church, attn: Mr. Billy Barnes, P.O. Box 578, Crystal Springs, MS 39059.

FBC OLOH, IS CURRENTLY ACCEPTING resumes for full-time minister of music/youth. Please submit resumes to FBC Oloh, attn: music search committee, 36 Oloh Church Road, Sumrall, MS 39482.

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Mohler: Pope has convictions, but theology is wrong

LOUISVILLE, Ky. (BP) — Pope Benedict XVI should be admired for his level of conviction but not for the particulars of his theological views, R. Albert Mohler Jr. wrote April 15 in an online dialogue about faith sponsored by The Washington Post and Newsweek magazine.

Mohler, president of Southern Seminary in Louisville, Ky., is one of more than 60 panelists who post responses on the Internet to religious questions posed at least once a week. The forum, known as On Faith, is hosted by Newsweek managing editor Jon Meacham and Washington Post writer Sally Quinn.

Pope Benedict, visiting the United States for the first time since his election as pontiff of the Roman Catholic Church three years ago, was in Washington April 15-16, including a visit with President Bush at the White House, and in New York April 18-20.

Commenting on the pope's statements last July that the Roman Catholic Church is the only true church, Mohler said Benedict's declaration was not unexpected and even reflects his concern for the souls of non-Catholics.

"The secular press and a good many non-Catholic church leaders expressed outrage and offense at the



Mohler

Pope's comments — assuming that such teachings were simply out of place in the modern world," Mohler wrote on the Washington Post/Newsweek forum.

"But Benedict was restating the tradition and teachings of his church — and he did so because he cared for those he believes are outside the blessings of grace he is certain are given to those in the communion of his church — and to that communion alone."

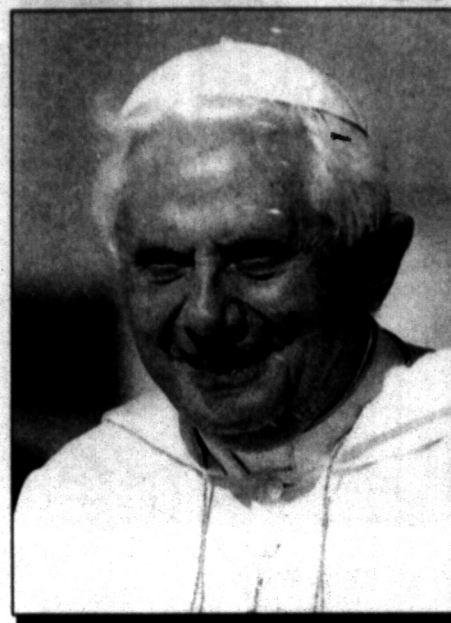
Mohler even expressed appreciation that the pope would care about Protestants like himself.

"I actually appreciated the Pope's concern," Mohler wrote. "If he is

right, we are endangering our souls and the souls of our church members. Yet, I am convinced that he is not right — not right on the papacy, not right on the sacraments, not right on the priesthood, not right on the Gospel, not right in understanding the church."

Mohler cited the pope's statements in a 2006 speech at Regensburg, Germany, and at his baptism of a prominent Muslim convert this past Easter as examples of Benedict's strong advocacy of Roman Catholic doctrine.

Such statements and actions "were perfectly in keeping with Catholic doctrine since Vatican II," Mohler wrote. "Evangelicals can admire his boldness without appreciating his inclusivism."



Pope Benedict XVI

Before his election as pope, Cardinal Joseph Ratzinger was a staunch defender of the doctrine of the Roman Catholic Church, and it should not surprise anyone that he has continued along the same theological trajectory since his election as pontiff, Mohler wrote.

Still, Mohler said Protestants should appreciate the fact that Benedict stands for some theological absolutes in a world that often capitulates to secularism and postmodernism.

"The Roman Catholic Church believes that evangelicals are in spiritual danger for obstinately and disobediently excluding ourselves from submission to its universal claims and its papacy,"

Mohler wrote. "Evangelicals are concerned that Catholics are in spiritual danger for their submission to these very claims. We both understand what is at stake."

"The divide between evangelical Christians and the Roman Catholic Church remains — as this Pope well understands. And, in so many ways, this is a Pope we can understand. In this strange world, that is no small achievement."

Editor's note: Mohler's entire article on the Washington Post/Newsweek forum is available at <http://newsweek.washingtonpost.com/onfaith>.

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JUST FOR THE RECORD



1. Fellowship Church, Taylorsville



2. Union Hall Church GAs, Brookhaven



3. Raymond Road Church, Jackson, Bible drillers



4. Zion Hill Church groundbreaking

1. The children of Fellowship Church, Taylorsville, participated in an Easter egg hunt with games and refreshments Mar. 22. Shown are the participants.

2. The GAs of Union Hall Church, Brookhaven, presented a skit and sang for the residents of Brook Manor Nursing Home. Shown are the participants.

3. Raymond Road Church, Jackson, recently held their church level youth and children's Bible drills. Shown, front, are Ashleigh Beasley, Ansley Myers, Sarah Stubbs, and Brooks Warren; back, Toni Stubbs, Madison Kirk, Sommer Warren, Courtney Evans, Anna Turner, and Rene Warren.

4. Zion Hill Church, Wesson, broke ground on their new sanctuary Mar. 30. Shown are Larry Ashley, Bobby Lumley, Dwayne McLemore, Jimmy Wooten, and Robert Hamilton. Thomas J. McCormick, pastor.

5. The Men's Brotherhood of Oak Grove Church, Meridian, funded a handicap ramp for a church member. Shown is chairman John Holland building the ramp.

6. Main Street Church, Goodman, celebrated its homecoming Apr. 6. Pastor John W. Martin recognized Helen McKibben for 40 years of service as church pianist. Shown are McKibben and Martin.

7. The children's Sunday School class of First Church, Oloh, sent up balloons to celebrate Jesus' resurrection on Easter Sunday. Shown are the participants.

8. The Mississippi Baptist State Softball Tournaments will be held at Jackson Legion fields in July. Churches, 0 - 600 in Sunday School enrollment (men) and all women will be July 18 - 19; 601 - above in Sunday School enrollment (men) will be July 25 - 26. Cost, \$160/team; entry deadline, July 1. For more information, contact Rodney Bounds at (601) 362-8676 or email metroba-bounds@aol.com.



5. Holland, Oak Grove Church, Meridian



6. McKibben and Martin, Main Street Church, Goodman



7. First Church, Oloh

9. Mid-Delta Association held a workday at the new associational office Mar. 1, 9 a.m. - 2 p.m., with over 50 workers showing up to clean the grounds, spread gravel, frame up sidewalks, and other projects.

10. Hathorn Church, Jeff Davis County, will dedicate their pastorium Apr. 27, 1:30 p.m., following services and dinner on the grounds. Richard Green, speaker.

11. The city of Clinton will observe the National Day of Prayer May 1, Clinton City Hall, at noon. Greg Belser, pastor, Morrison Heights Church, featured speaker.

12. Baptist Scouters from 16 states gathered at Shocco Springs Conference Center, Talladega, Ala., for the biennial national conference of the Association of Baptists for Scouting. Five Mississippians received the Good Shepherd Cross and Staff recognition, the organization's highest honor, given to those who have served a minimum of 50 years through a local Baptist church and through Scouting. They are Van and Dorothy East, Amory; Noel and Nina Evans, Meridian; and Paul Thompson, Louisville.



JUST FOR THE RECORD

13. Dorsey Church, Itawamba Association, hosted the associational spring wMu meeting. Shown are Sandy Sandlin, Kay Faulkenberry, and Kaye Graham. A love offering of \$140.25 was received for Sav-A-Life of Tupelo.

14. First Church, Soso, honored their senior adults with a special day Apr. 13. Shown are the participants.

15. Fair River Church, Brookhaven, presented recognition awards to 22 GAs. Shown is David Fortenberry with the girls.

16. Cleary Church, Florence, will host Bill Robertson, Louisiana Baptist Convention and interim pastor of Midway Church, Jena, La., Apr. 27, 6 p.m. Midway Church is where the Jena revival began Feb. 17 and is continuing to spread throughout the parish.

17. Leaf River Church, Smith County, will host a Word of Faith seminar presented by Justin Peters May 4 - 7. Sun., 11 a.m. and 6 p.m., followed by fellowship; Mon. - Wed., 7 p.m.



14. First Church, Soso



2. Parrish family



13. wMu meeting, Dorsey Church



15. GAs, Fair River Church, Brookhaven

1. Harrisville Church, Simpson Association, has called Eric McMahon as minister of youth and activities. McMahon and his wife Christy have four children — Gracie Mae, Hunter, Madeline, and Eva. They previously served at Utica Church, Utica.

2. Hebron Church, Clay County, has called Andy Parrish as pastor. He comes from Spring Hill Church, Millport, Ala. Shown are Parrish, wife Heather, and children Josiah, Elijah, and Mattie Grace.

COLLEGE NEWS

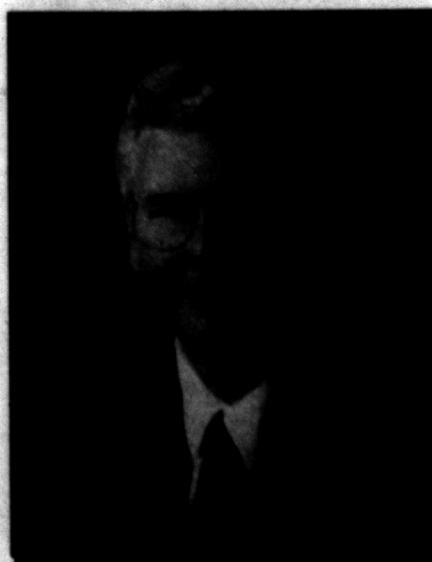


1. Waldrep

1. Ashley Waldrep, an honors student at Blue Mountain College from Athens, Ala., has been elected president of the Mississippi Baptist Student Union. The organization is comprised of 29 chapters on the college, university, and community college campuses.

2. Former Mississippi Secretary of State Eric Clark will deliver the Blue Mountain College commencement address during the May 10 graduation ceremonies. The program will begin at 10 a.m.

3. Mississippi College has elected nine new student government leaders for the 2008-2009 school year. They are, front row, Virginia Wright, Chief Justice, Jackson; Peter Huwe, Chief Justice, Corinth; Bethany Boteler, Women's Affairs Board Chair, Florence; back row, Andrew Duggar, Men's Affairs Board Chairman, Madison; David Parker, Campus Activities Board Chairman, Meridian; Harley McAlexander, President, Clinton; Katy Johnson, Secretary, Madison; Josh McCormick, Vice President, Indianola; Jonathan Nutt, Treasurer, Clinton.



2. Clark



3. MC student government leaders

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BIBLE DRILLS



1. Youth Bible drillers, First Church, Helena



2. Bible drillers, Poplar Springs Church, Mendenhall



3. Bible drillers, Troy Church

1. First Church, Helena, recognizes its youth Bible drillers. Shown are Anthony Prentiss, Amber Hodge, Jessica Cates, Caryn McWilliams, and Patrick Lewis.

2. Poplar Springs Church, Mendenhall, recognizes its children and youth Bible drillers. Shown are Dalton Morgan, Noah Bowlin, Hayden Wadlington, Marissa Shows, Leah Bowlin, and Josh Lamon.

3. Troy Church, Pontotoc County, recognizes its children and youth Bible drillers. Shown are the participants.

4. First Church, Magnolia, recognizes Bible drillers Sean Rushing and Allen Lampton, who received superior at the state drills at First Church, McComb. Shown are Rushing, Lampton, leader Megan Harvey, and pastor Barry Ward.

5. First Church, Houston, recognizes its state children's Bible drillers. Shown are the leaders and participants.

6. First Church, Houston, recognizes its state youth Bible drillers. Shown are the leaders and participants.



4. Bible drillers, First Church, Magnolia



5. Children's Bible drillers, First Church, Houston



6. Youth Bible drillers, First Church, Houston



REVIVALS AND HOMECOMINGS

County Line Church, Crystal Springs: Homecoming, May 18; Sunday School, 9:45 a.m.; worship, 11 a.m., followed by lunch; Pat Bufkin, speaker.

Woolmarket Church, Biloxi: Revival, Apr. 27 - 30; Sun., 11 a.m. and 7 p.m., Mon. - Wed., 7 p.m.; M.L. Faler, speaker; Zeno Wells, music; Paul Crowley, pastor.

Salem Church, Kemper County: Homecoming, May 4; services, 10:30 a.m., followed by pot luck dinner; Jerry Jones, pastor and speaker; Southern Reign, music.

Brush Creek Church, Walnut: Revival, May 4 - 8; regular Sunday services; Mon. - Wed., 7 p.m.; special singing each night; Ronald Meeks, speaker; Carrol K. Talley, pastor.

Calvary Church, Bogue Chitto: 105th homecoming, May 4; Sunday School, 10 a.m.; worship, 11 a.m., followed by lunch; Hal Hatten, speaker; Trent Bilbo, pastor.

First Church, Houlika: Revival, Apr. 27 - 30; Sun., 10 a.m. and 6 p.m.; Mon. - Wed., 7 p.m.; Chris Burrows, speaker; Melinda Kopp, music.

New Sight Church, Brookhaven: Homecoming, May 4; worship, 10:45 a.m., followed by covered dish lunch and afternoon singing; Edgar L. Wright, speaker; Terry Walker, music.

Faith Church, West Point: 20th anniversary, May 4; services, 10 a.m., followed by lunch at noon and Promise Quartet, 6 p.m.; Jimmy Carr, speaker; Ben Yarber, pastor.

Hathorn Church, Columbia: Revival, Apr. 27 - 30; Sun., 11 a.m., followed by dinner on the grounds followed by gospel singing; Mon. - Wed., 7 p.m.; Richard Green, speaker; Linda Duke Barnes, music.

Boulevard Church, Southaven: Revival, Apr. 27 - 30; Sun., 10:45 a.m. and 6:30 p.m.; Mon. - Wed., 6:30 p.m.; Steve Wilkes, speaker; Al Pihringer, pastor.

Trinity Church, Philadelphia: Revival, Apr. 27 - 30; Sun., 11 a.m. and 6 p.m.; Mon. - Wed., 7 p.m.; Jim Futral, speaker; Buddy McElroy, music; Mike Carr, pastor.

Larue Church, Ocean Springs: 51st homecoming and revival, May 4 - 8; Sun., dinner on the ground following services; Mon. - Wed., 7 p.m.; Don Savell, speaker; Burnice Havard, pastor.

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Climate group issues public policy agenda

WASHINGTON (BP and local reports) — The Cornwall Alliance for the Stewardship of Creation, a coalition of evangelicals focused on the issue of global climate change, has released a 16-point public policy agenda for balancing concern about global climate change with social responsibility for people who live in poverty.

The 19-page document, *The Cornwall Stewardship Agenda*, calls for governmental policymakers to focus on "firmly established risks" to the climate and respond "in ways that are cost-effective and have proven benefit."

Humanity's "divinely ordained responsibility to exercise faithful stewardship" includes not only protection of the environment but also "meeting human needs (particularly those of the poor), cultivating human creativity and helping people flourish," the document says.

Public policy in the United States and around the world is in danger of being made on the basis of outdated science, and the problem is made worse by mass media that are ignoring recent scientific findings that call the notion of human-induced global warming into question, said Barrett Duke, vice president for governmental affairs for the Southern Baptist Convention's Ethics & Religious Liberty

Commission in Nashville and a member of the Cornwall Alliance's Board of Advisors.

"This issue has significant implications for the entire world," Duke said during an April 17 news conference announcing the release of the Cornwall agenda. "The decisions world leaders are about to make in this country, as well as around the world, have the potential to significantly affect commerce and the well-being of people who can least afford any hiccups at all in the world economy."

Activists who warn about the danger of human-caused climate catastrophe focus on what may happen in 50 or 100 years if the climate forecasting models they use are correct, Duke said.

On the other hand, he said, there is little question that if "draconian restrictions" are imposed on the global economy, poor people in the undeveloped world will be unable to improve their lives.

"We believe poor and vulnerable communities and the underdeveloped parts of the world should have access to the food they need to improve their health and well-being and should have access to affordable, abundant energy so they can work their own way out of their impoverished situations," Duke said. "We do not believe it is appropriate to leave a vast proportion of this

world's populace in poverty — essentially in the Stone Age — simply because maybe, possibly, somehow humans might be changing the climate."

A biblical worldview calls for Christians to use, not abuse, creation and also requires them to love both God and neighbor, said Stephen Livesay, president of Bryan College in Dayton, Tn. By dictating restrictive policies on global energy use, wealthy nations that claim to be concerned for the poor in effect are condemning them to remain in poverty, Livesay said.

"It seems rather contradictory to me for wealthy nations to take advantage of our wealth to clean up emissions from various kinds of energy sources, yet not allow developing countries to have proper energy supplies so they can improve their own standard of living," Livesay said. "How can we say we are loving others when we are not allowing them to have the opportunity to fulfill the great purpose God has for mankind to prosper, be fulfilled and give Him glory through their work?"

The executive summary of the Cornwall Stewardship Agenda says: "God calls us to steward creation, but presently much environmental advocacy and activism contradict sound theology and sound science... This agenda is designed to flesh

out the broad principles of the 2000 Cornwall Declaration on Environmental Stewardship... and answer the practical question of what public policy principles religious leaders and policymakers should support in their desire to achieve Biblically balanced stewardship."

The Cornwall Stewardship Agenda task force is being co-chaired by Duke and Livesay and will address two sets of issues — poverty/development, and energy/climate change.

The larger Cornwall Stewardship Agenda outlines 16 public policy recommendations on climate change, fossil fuels and nuclear energy, new energy technologies, and energy and economic development. The recommendations call for continued study of climate change science and reporting on new findings "even if they challenge prevalent opinions."

An organization called the Southern Baptist Environment and Climate Initiative created a news media stir several weeks ago by announcing a creation care agenda, but it was soon revealed that the organization is not connected to the Southern Baptist Convention, has no staff or office, and is being run out of the rented bedroom of Southeastern Seminary student Jonathan Merritt.

Editor's note: The entire Cornwall Stewardship Agenda is posted on the group's website, www.cornwallalliance.org.

Bibliocipher

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YFX AB RCLAON ZV AF PEM,

NCV ZEXP AO XVYX ZVRY-

MOV EB OAF; ZMN NCV

OJALAN AO TABV ZVRYMOV

EB LAICNVE-MOFVOO.

LEGYFO VAICN: NVF

Clue: R=C

Have fun with cryptography and exercise your Bible knowledge. A King James Version Bible verse has been encoded by letter substitution. The same letter is substituted throughout the puzzle. Solve by trial and error. Answer to last week's puzzle: Ephesians Five Two.

Census study shows alarming number of sex selection abortions in U.S.

WASHINGTON, D.C. (BP) — Some Asians in the United States apparently are expressing their preference for sons by using sex-selection abortions to produce male babies. A new examination of the 2000 U.S. census showed an increase in the births of sons of Chinese, Korean, and Asian Indian parents after they have one or two daughters, according to RedOrbit, an online science, space, health and technology site.

The authors of the research, published March 31 in the *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences*, said their findings suggested that "in a subpopulation with a traditional son preference, the technologies are being used to generate male births when preceding births are female," RedOrbit reported.

The researchers surmised some Asian parents are using ultrasound technology to determine the sex of unborn babies, resulting in a subsequently inordinate number of abortions of girls, according to the report.

Douglas Almond, an economics professor at Columbia University, and Lena Edlund of the National Bureau of Economic Research reported there was an increase in the use of ultrasound

among Asian Americans in the 1990s and the appearance of a gender imbalance in later births at the end of that decade, according to RedOrbit.

Ultrasound use during pregnancy among non-Japanese Asian women in the United States grew from about 38% to 64% between 1989 and 1999, they said.

Almond and Edlund's study showed the normal birth ratio in the 2000 census among Asian Americans for the first child was 1.05 boys to one girl, RedOrbit reported. If the first child were a girl, the ratio grew to 1.17 boys to one girl among Asians. After two female babies, it increased to 1.51 boys to every girl.

There was no such difference among Asian births in the 1990 census, according to RedOrbit.

The male-female ratio among whites remained constant, *Slate* magazine reported.

Sex-selection abortion has been a growing problem in recent years in some Asian countries, where parents often favor sons, at least in part, because of a desire to be supported by them in old age.

China and India have led the way in using ultrasounds to identify females in the womb and then to abort them, with Nepal

and Vietnam prepared to follow their examples, the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) reported in October.

China, which has a coercive, one-child policy, had 120 males born for every 100 females in 2005, according to the UNFPA. India's 2001 census showed the ratio nationally was 108 to 100, but some northern and western states had a ratio as high as 120 to 100, UNFPA reported. The normal ratio is about 105 to 100.

Meanwhile, statistics released in March by the British government showed about 950 women had their fifth abortion in 2007, nearly 200 had their sixth, 110 had their seventh, and 54 had at least their eighth, the *Daily Mail* reported.

"What harder evidence do we need that the abortion law as it stands is being abused?" said Nadine Dorries, a Tory in Parliament, according to the newspaper. "Abortion is supposed to be allowed if a pregnancy poses a significant risk to a mother's health or well-being, but in fact it's being allowed over and over again for purely social reasons. Girls now get pregnant and think, 'It doesn't matter; I'll just get an abortion.'"

Nominees sought for MBC posts

Members of the Committee on Nominations for the Mississippi Baptist Convention (MBC) will soon begin meeting and reviewing the trustee/board member positions on the boards and commissions of the Mississippi Baptist Convention for 2009.

According to Paul Crowley, committee chair and pastor of Woolmarket Church, Biloxi, there are a limited number of vacancies to be filled on the following boards and commissions:

- Baptist Health Systems, Inc. (Jackson)
- Baptist Memorial Health Care System, Inc. (Memphis)
- Board of Ministerial Education
- Christian Action Commission
- Education Commission
- Historical Commission
- Blue Mountain College
- Mississippi College
- William Carey University
- Mississippi Baptist Children's Village
- Mississippi Baptist Convention Board (MBCB)
- Mississippi Baptist Foundation

The Committee on Nominations will work in conjunction with the heads of the institutions and agencies in bringing a list of nominees to be approved by the messengers at the 173rd annual meeting of the Mississippi Baptist Convention on October 28-29 at First Church, Jackson.

Nomination forms can be obtained by contacting MBCB Executive Administration, P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205-0530. Telephone: (601) 292-3201 or toll-free outside Jackson (800) 748-1651, ext. 201. E-mail: bbox@mbcb.org.

Completed forms should be mailed to the Committee on Nominations, MBCB Executive Administration, at the above address to be received by May 1.

For information on how to serve as a messenger to the Mississippi Baptist Convention annual meeting, contact your church's pastor or staff.

THE VILLAGE VIEW



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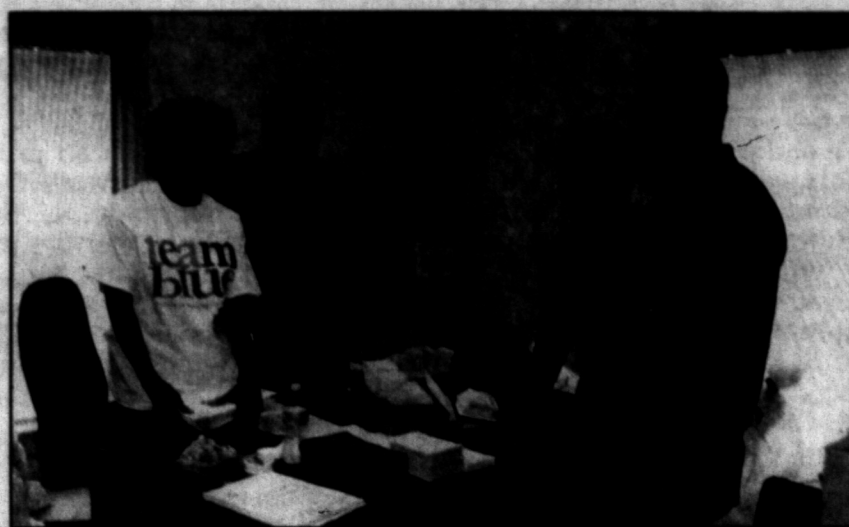
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Mrs. Letha Marie Rhinewalt
Springfield Baptist Church
Gail Robinson
Mr. & Mrs. Gerald Stanford
Jimmy Lee Rogers
Mr. & Mrs. Thomas M.
Simmons
Graeber Brothers Inc.
William E. Rush
Mr. & Mrs. Larry W. Magee
Traci Sasser
Mr. & Mrs. Barney J. Albritton
Mr. Joe Schilling
Mr. & Mrs. Thomas W. Brock
Mrs. Matilda "Tot" Schoby
Jimmy & Jo Ann Carruth
Catherine Shingler
Mr. & Mrs. J. R. Tew
Sheppard Langston Shows
Bettie Lindley & John Dell
Hucabee
Mrs. Joan Clower Singletary
Lyn Knight
Mrs. Carolyn C. Woodward
Mr. & Mrs. Wallace A. Clay
Mrs. Bess W. Patton
Mr. & Mrs. Ragan Walters
Betty Smith
Concord Baptist Church
Brooks Smith
Ms. Cheryl Calcote
Elizabeth Smith
Misses Sue & Hettie E.
Williams
Luc Smith
Mr. & Mrs. Al Ray
Mrs. Vivian S. Smith
Tom & Kathy Assaf
Mrs. Linda S. Campbell
Mr. & Mrs. Sam Owens
Mr. & Mrs. Robert W. Prescott
Jr.
Mr. & Mrs. Ronald W.
Prescott Sr.
Mr. & Mrs. Mike B.
Thompson
Mr. Leroy Smithhart
Mrs. Ruth B. Jefcoat
Mr. & Mrs. Paul Ervin Jr.
Mother of Annette Smithhart
Mrs. Ruth B. Jefcoat
Jeff Speed
Mrs. Ethel B. Bourne &
Family
Perry Spraberry
Randy & Karen Tabb &
Family
Billy & Ann Woods
Werner Woods
Mrs. Ruby Rae Stampley
Mr. & Mrs. Al Hurt
Melvin & Mary Nell Starrett
Mr. & Mrs. John S. Allred
Jerome & Patricia Steen
Mr. & Mrs. Olin R.
Holiday
Patricia Steen
The Archie Magee Family
Gabe Stewart
Rev. & Mrs. Allen H. Mapp
Jr.
Marie Stewart
Bettie Lindley & John Dell
Hucabee
Ms. Helen Stout
Mrs. Hazel H. Massengale
Jimmy Stringer
Carl & Jeannine Odom
Marie Stubblefield
Bob & Michelle Ezell Poe
Mr. Earl Sullivan
Mr. & Mrs. Lattrel Langley
Mrs. Michelle Sullivan
Mr. & Mrs. Terry E.
Champion
Ethel I. Sumrall
Bettie Lindley & John Dell
Hucabee
Oliver Lane Templeton
Ms. Marilyn Forbes



Staff from Blue Cross Blue Shield of Mississippi spent one Saturday putting together packets of BCV Mother's Day Offering materials to be mailed to all Mississippi Baptist churches. The BCBS of Mississippi employees volunteered as part of a year long effort by BCBS of Mississippi to get their employees more involved in the community.



The Junior Civic League of Clinton recently sponsored the construction of a new swing set and picnic tables to serve the Robinson Emergency Care cottage. The ladies rolled up their sleeves and began shoveling and spreading gravel under the playground, after a brief chapter meeting and a prayer of dedication offer by Celeste Cade, BCV Public Relations Associate.



Construction continues on the newest campus of The Baptist Children's Village. The campus is being constructed in the Naniah Waiya community in Winston County just south of Louisville. The campus is scheduled to open this Fall.

The Baptist Children's Village

2008 Mother's Day Offering

Celebrating Ministry Expansion

Now Jabez called on the God of Israel, saying, "Oh that You would bless me indeed and enlarge my border, and that Your hand might be with me, and that You would keep (me) from harm that (it) may not pain me!" And God granted him what he requested. ~ 1 Chronicles 4:10

Since 1897 The Baptist Children's Village has been available in all 82 counties in Mississippi. Now, in 2008 the ministry is more accessible than ever to children and their families who need us. The anticipated addition of two new campuses positions us within 50 miles of 74 counties and 75 miles of 81 counties.

Just as the Lord protected Jabez and blessed him with an enlarged territory to meet his needs, so has the Lord continually enlarged the territory of The Baptist Children's Village to meet very specific needs for Mississippi children and families.

We acknowledge His generous blessing as we approach this annual Mother's Day offering and praise Him for His great wisdom and provision!

To order BCV Mother's Day Offering envelopes and bulletin inserts please go to:
www.baptistchildrensvillage.com or call 601-922-2242.

BCV MOTHER'S DAY OFFERING GOAL

\$390,000



The Brotherhood and WMU of Twin Lakes Baptist Church recently volunteered for hands on BCV projects. The men painted in one of the cottages while the ladies put together Easter mail out material and sorted Campbell's Labels for Education.

BIBLE STUDIES FOR LIFE

Pioneers in the Covenant: Radical Humility during Fearful Times

Genesis 32:3, 6-12; 33:1-5, 9-11

By Rick Henson

Humility avoids all who seek it. James 4:10 reads, "Humble yourselves before the Lord, and He will exalt you." That sounds easy enough, but most have not yet mastered the art of humility. Just as we begin to be humble, we pat ourselves on the back for our progress, and our hard-earned humility is gone.

Few people in our times model humility, either in or out of the church. We prize the church with the largest number of people, not the one with the greatest servants. We ask the pastor of the mega church to preach at our conferences and conventions, not the man who quietly serves the Lord for decades at a small church, though he faithfully obeys the Lord and leads peo-

ple to Christ. We prize the best-selling author more than the lifelong missionary serving in obscurity. The Bible teaches in James 4:6 that God resists the proud but gives grace to the humble. How does one get on the right side of that equation? If one works on his humility and succeeds, he may become proud of his efforts, and therefore fit in the proud side of that verse.

Rick Warren wrote in his best seller Purpose Driven Life, "Humility is not thinking less of yourself, it's thinking of yourself less." That makes sense. Humility is not self-abasement; it is self-abandonment; not being selfish, but being self-less.

So, how do we avoid pride and be humble? The Scripture teaches in James 4:7-8,



Henson

"Submit to God. But resist the Devil, and he will flee from you. Draw near to God, and He will draw near to you." From this verse we learn that we must first deny ourselves and follow Christ (Luke 9:23). Then we recognize that the Devil is a liar and the father of all lies (John 8:44). Finally, we draw closer to God (Zechariah 1:3 and Hebrews 7:19).

Jacob submitted himself to God at Bethel, giving the Lord a tenth of his possessions as a sign of his surrender. Jacob's name meant "trickster" and he had earned his name. He convinced Esau to trade his birthright for some food. He deceived his blind old father Isaac, and tricked him into blessing him and not Esau, though Jacob was the younger.

Jacob had defrauded his brother Esau twenty six years before and fled for fear of reprisal. But then the Lord led Jacob to go home. Esau was com-

ing to meet him, so Jacob prayed to God. Jacob humbled himself before the Lord and asked for protection and guidance. Jacob admitted he was wrong and pleaded for the Lord's protection. The night before Jacob reunited with Esau, an angel wrestled with him all night long at a place Jacob named, Peniel, which means "the face of God."

This Angel spoke for God, changing Jacob's name to Israel. "Israel" means "wrestles with God." Jacob the trickster became Israel who wrestles with God. At Peniel Jacob submitted to God and acknowledged his own failures and that all he possessed came from God.

Jacob also sought to make peace with Esau. He sent a gift of livestock ahead so that Esau might see that he was repentant. He repeatedly bowed before Esau to show his contrite heart. The Apostle Paul wrote in Romans 12:18, "If possible, on your part, live at peace with everyone." God commanded that Jacob return home and Jacob obeyed. He also made peace with Esau. When Jacob demon-

strated his humble spirit, Esau kissed him and forgave him.

Are you at peace with God? Though you may have deceived others and have certainly disobeyed God, He awaits your return. Jacob met God at Bethel and then at Peniel. Those became special places for him. Under our new covenant with God, you can only meet Him at Calvary. 2 Corinthians 5:21 reads, "He made the One who did not know sin to be sin for us, so that we might become the righteousness of God in Him."

Are you at peace with all people? When you are right with God, you desire to be right with others. 1 John 4:21 teaches us, "And we have this command from Him: the one who loves God must also love his brother." To be right with God and with others, we must humble ourselves. 1 Peter 5:6 reads, "Humble yourselves therefore under the mighty hand of God, so that He may exalt you in due time."

Henson is pastor of Oakdale Church, Brandon

EXPLORE THE BIBLE

When Presented with Challenging Tasks

Genesis 41:1a, 12-13, 15-16, 28-30, 32-40

By Marion Duncan

Egypt and the surrounding area experienced the most severe famine on record. What was the significance of such an event? Its significance was to drive the people to Joseph, especially the children of Israel.

Two years had passed since the cupbearer of Pharaoh had been released from prison and reinstated to his position. Pharaoh had a troubling dream: seven sleek, fat water cows came up out of the Nile River and grazed among the reeds. Following them, seven ugly, gaunt water cows came up out of the Nile and stood beside them. The ugly water cows ate the seven fat ones. The scene was a horrible nightmare and awoke Pharaoh. He fell asleep

and dreamed a second dream like the first. Seven healthy, good heads of grain were growing on a single stalk. After them, seven other heads of grain sprouted—thin and scorched by the east wind, siroc or sirocco, a Mediterranean wind that comes from the Sahara and reaches hurricane speeds in North Africa and Southern Europe. The thin heads of grain swallowed up the seven healthy, full heads. The unusual nature of these vivid dreams disturbed and perplexed Pharaoh.

The next morning, he sent for all the magicians and wise men of Egypt, and he told them his dreams. None of them could interpret them for him. Unlike their Assyrian brethren (Da 2:4), they did not



Duncan

pretend to know the meaning of the symbols contained in them. It was providence that their powers were not enough to interpret the dreams in order that Joseph might appear even more remarkable because of the God-given wisdom and insight he demonstrated.

Up until this time, the cupbearer had not remembered Joseph (40:23), but God did not forget him. It took courage for the cupbearer to remind Pharaoh of a time when he had been imprisoned at Pharaoh's bidding, but he told Pharaoh about the young Hebrew servant of the captain of the guard who interpreted the dreams he and the baker had while they were in prison. He also declared how things turned out exactly as Joseph interpreted they would—he was restored to his position as cupbearer, and the other man was hanged. (Genesis 41:13)

Pharaoh sent for Joseph, and when he had shaved and changed his clothes, he came

before Pharaoh. He told Joseph he knew of his ability to interpret dreams. Joseph replied, "I cannot do it, but God will give Pharaoh the answer he desires." (41:16-NIV) Note translation differences: "It is not in me: God will give Pharaoh an answer of peace." (ASV) "I am not able to. It is God who will give Pharaoh a favorable answer." (HCSV) It was not that Pharaoh would receive the answer he wanted to hear, but one that would give him peace in the matter.

Pharaoh recounts the dreams to Joseph with more detail in v. 21. Joseph told Pharaoh that in his dreams God had revealed to him what He was about to do. As represented by the seven good cows and seven good heads of grain, seven years of great abundance were coming throughout the land of Egypt, but they would be followed by seven years of famine indicated by the seven poor cows and seven worthless heads of grain. The scripture says in Hebrews 6:17-18 when "God wanted to make the unchanging nature of his purpose very clear... he did that by two unchanging things in which it is impossible for God to lie"—

thus, the two dreams with the same meaning.

Joseph recommended a plan of action to Pharaoh for making preparations for the years of famine during the years of abundant crops. He advised Pharaoh to look for a discerning and wise man to put in charge of these preparations. Pharaoh acknowledged God when he told Joseph, "Since God has made all this known to you, there is no one so discerning and wise as you," (v. 39) and he made Joseph second-in-command of the whole land of Egypt. In verse 44, Pharaoh told Joseph, "I am Pharaoh..." which parallels the great "I am" of God in Genesis, showing Pharaoh's belief in his own deity.

When the years of famine came, Pharaoh told the Egyptians, "Go to Joseph and do what he tells you." (41:55-NIV) The same words were uttered by Mary, the mother of Jesus, to the servants at the wedding in Cana. (John 2:5) "And all the countries came to Egypt"—to Joseph. (v.57b)

Duncan is wMu director at First Church, Starkville

Guidelines for submitting news and photographs

The Baptist Record is pleased to publish news and photographs of special events that take place in cooperating churches of the Mississippi Baptist Convention.

News submitted for publication in The Baptist Record must be either (a) typewritten, (b) neatly printed on 8 1/2 by 11-inch paper, or (c) neatly printed on standardized forms provided by the newspaper. All articles must be received in writing; no articles will be accepted over the telephone.

News may be submitted electronically to the address below, and must be contained in the message segment of an e-mail form. Due to increasing virus threats, no text attachments will

be accepted. Photograph attachments are permissible.

Please make articles concise. Include the who, what, when, where details of the story, along with a contact person's address and telephone number.

Photographs may be color or black and white. Instant photos and digital printouts are not reproducible. Digital photos may be used if submitted as a JPEG file via either (a) e-mail, (b) three-and-a-half inch floppy disk, or (c) CD. Photos must be

clear, sharp, and well-lighted. Photographs can not be returned. Please do not attach photos with tape or staples.

All news items are subject to editing, and all photographs are subject to cropping. Photographs must depict people. No landscape-, building-, or object-only photographs will be printed. News items and/or photographs can be published one time only. Deadline for submitting news is one week prior to requested publication date.

Articles that are not date-sensitive will be published on a space-available basis.

Submit news and photographs to The Baptist Record, P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205-0530. FAX: (601) 292-3330. E-mail: baptistrecord@mbcb.org.

THE BAPTIST
Record

Study: Cable filth attracting too many young viewers

LOS ANGELES (BP) — Children who watched certain daytime shows on cable's MTV and BET were exposed to adult content including that of a sexual, violent, profane, or obscene nature once every 38 seconds, according to a study by the Parents Television Council (PTC).

"We thought we'd seen it all, but even we were taken aback by what we found in the music video programs on MTV and BET that are targeted directly at impressionable children," said Tim Winter, president of the pro-family watchdog group.

'Long-standing stereotypes'

Delman Coates, an African American pastor and founder of the Enough is Enough Campaign to push for change and accountability from networks like MTV and BET, asked the Parents Television Council to conduct the study in order to increase awareness of the destructive images on television that are negatively impacting society.

"It's these images of black men as gangsters and thugs and criminals [and] black women as being hypersexualized — which are actually long-standing stereotypes of black people that have endured since slavery — that I felt really needed to be challenged," Coates said at a news conference releasing the study, "and that's really what it is, a kind of coarsening of American popular culture."

Adult content

For the report, PTC analyzed adult content airing on BET's Rap City and 106 & Park, and on MTV's Sucker Free on MTV during afternoon or early evening hours for a two-week period last December. The analysts were so shocked at the high volume and degree of adult-themed material that they conducted an additional week of analysis in March.

The data revealed even higher levels of adult content in March than in December, PTC said.

"BET and MTV are assaulting children with content that is full of sexually charged images,"

explicit language, portrayals of violence, drug use, drug sales, and other illegal activity," Winter said in a news release accompanying the report's release April 10. "Not only that, but we discovered that some offensive words aired only in muted form in December 2007, but as recent as March 2008, these same words were not muted.

"Excluding one program on BET, neither BET or MTV carried content descriptors that would work in conjunction with the V-chip to block the programs from coming into the home or to warn parents about the presence of sexual content, suggestive dialogue, violence or foul language," Winter added. "This is a major problem for parents who are told repeatedly to rely on their V-chips to protect their children."

Boundaries stretched

Walt Mueller, founder and president of the Pennsylvania-based Center for Parent/Youth Understanding, told Baptist Press he was saddened but not surprised by PTC's findings.

"The envelope continues to be stretched as far as the boundaries of decency go," Mueller noted. "At this point we won't know the full cumulative impact of these realities until the children and teens who have been socialized, nurtured, and raised assuming the behaviors depicted are 'normal,' 'OK' and at the very least 'not wrong' move into adulthood."

Mueller said that with the breakdown of the family occurring in American culture today, media, by default, is well equipped to step into the gap and raise the kids.

The influence of the content peddled by MTV and BET will be more profound and life-shaping as children are exposed at increasingly younger ages, Mueller said.

"At this point, there doesn't seem to be any reversal in sight."

In

addition to children becoming more desensitized to the adult behaviors they see on television, Mueller said the phrase "I felt like it" will become "justification for all kinds of immoral and perhaps illegal sexual practices."

"The values and practices media depicts that are so alarming to us today will be normalized by the time today's children and teens reach adulthood," Mueller predicted.

"At this point, the only sexual behavior frowned upon with some sense of universality is pedophilia. However, if we continue on the track we're currently on, I wonder if that will even be defined as allowable and acceptable behavior down the road."

Key findings

Among the key findings from The Rap on Rap from PTC:

- Analysts documented 1,647 instances of offensive or adult content in the 27.5 hours of programming they examined in December, for an average of nearly one instance every minute. In March, it was one instance every 38 seconds.

To put the problem in perspective, PTC said their most recent analysis of primetime broadcast television during the family hour revealed one instance of violent, profane, or sexual content every 4.8 minutes.

- Most of what children see in the music videos is sexually charged images. Forty-five percent of the adult content in the December data was of a sexual nature, 29% was explicit language, 13% was violence, nine percent was drug use or sales, and three percent was other illegal activity. The percentages remained roughly the same for March.

- PTC documented sexually explicit scenes or lyrical references once every 2.2 minutes during the hours the researchers analyzed from December. The March content raised the rate to once every 90 seconds.

- The most commonly used expletive during the December and March study period was what PTC called "(muted) 'n-word.'"

- During the December study period, children under 18 made up about 40% of the viewing audience for 106 & Park; 41% of the audience for Rap City; and 39% of the audience for Sucker Free on MTV, PTC said, noting that doesn't include the children who watched the re-airing of the programs throughout the day.

Positive influences

Mueller said the research underscores the need for

parents and the church to step up their efforts at influencing children in positive, healthy ways.

"Families and the church should embark on a journey of teaching kids a biblical sexual ethic, along with teaching them how to move from a posture of mindless media consumption to a posture of mindful media critique," Mueller told BP.

"We must be teaching our kids how to think biblically and Christianly about everything they read, listen to and watch... By learning these skills, children and teens will be better equipped to discern truth from lies," he said.

Winter, the PTC president, advised parents to be more involved in monitoring their children's media consumption by establishing and following rules about media use and by discussing media content with their children.

Subsidizing filth

He also said advertisers need to be held accountable for the content their advertising dollars fund.

"Consumers must demand and receive the right to pick and choose — and pay for — only the cable channels they want coming into their homes," Winter also said, referring to a proposed a la carte cable system. "It is unconscionable that parents who wish to protect their children from this content are nonetheless forced to subsidize it with their cable subscription dollars."

"Finally, we must demand from the networks an accurate, transparent and consistent ratings system that will give parents adequate tools to protect their children from inappropriate content."

Editor's note: To read the complete study, visit www.parentstv.org.

Mississippi Baptists Giving Back to New Orleans Seminary

The Mississippi Manor Project at NOBTS

The Mississippi Manor Project was launched by a group of Baptists in Picayune and is designed to provide funding for a new apartment complex at New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary.

Since Hurricane Katrina, when 92 campus apartments were damaged beyond repair, the seminary has faced a housing shortage. Mississippi Manor will provide 36 two-bedroom apartments for student families preparing for ministry at New Orleans Seminary.

The need is critical. Many student families are currently on a waiting list for campus housing.

Project Details

- Cost of Construction: \$5 million
- Building Area: 34,050 SF
- Construction time: 9 months
- Apartment Size: 830 SF
- Sponsor an apartment: \$139,000

Can you help meet this critical need?

For more information about Mississippi Manor or to give to the project, contact Tom Boone in Picayune 1-800-426-1886 or msnobts.bellsouth.net

